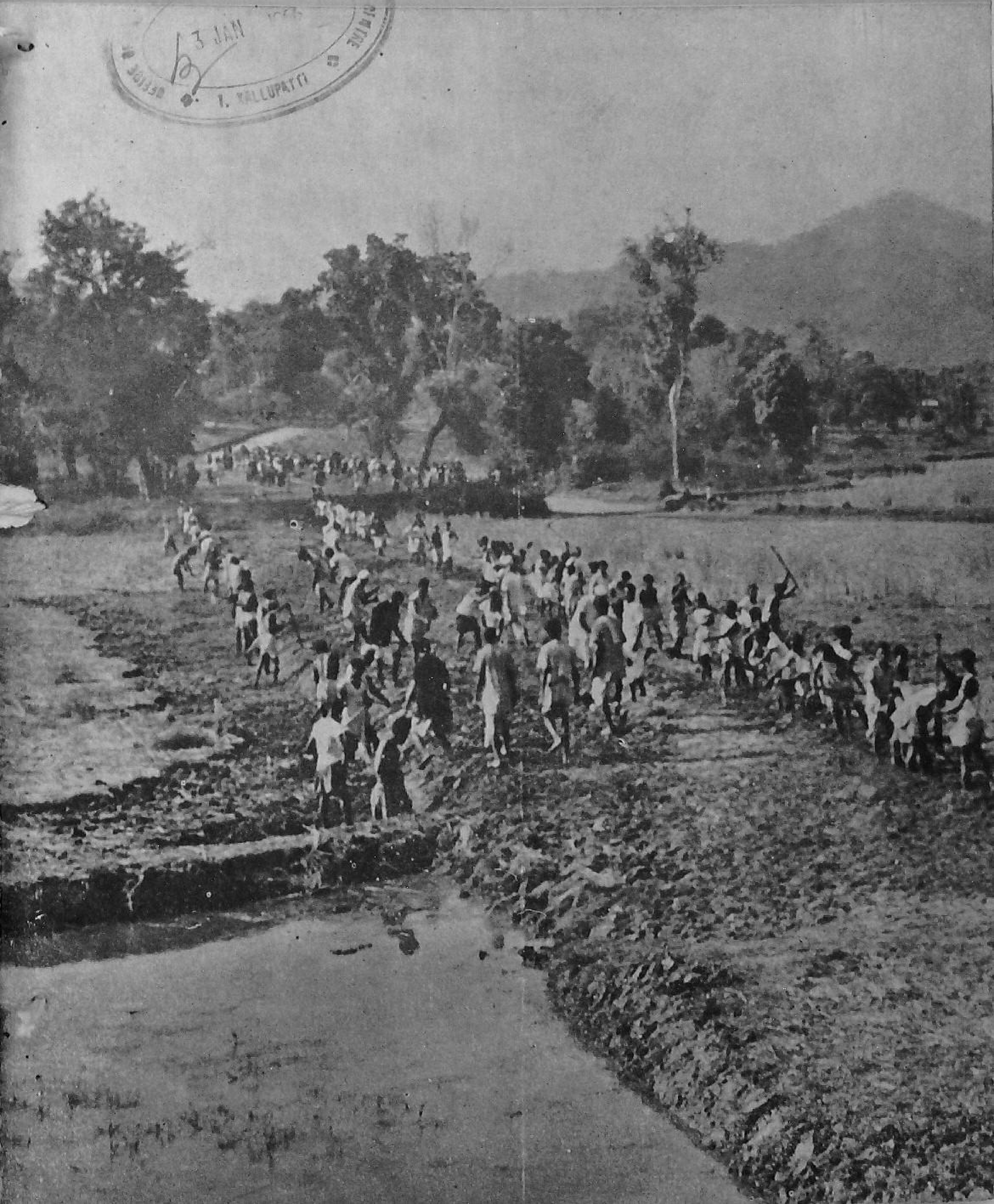
Panchayati Raj

DECEMBER 1965

13 JAN
T. KALLUPATTI



With us food is a major consideration.
We've been thinking of it from various angles.
That accounts for the wide range of equipments
we manufacture for the food industry.
Think of tractors that plough an acre an hour,
bulldozers, scrapers, traxcavators essential for
building dams, canals and clearing forests; superphosphate plants important for the manufacture
of fertilizers; a mill that grinds 1,000 tons of
grain a day, cattle and poultry feed plants, bulk
handling equipment, a silo that stores as much
as 100,000 tons of food grain... These are not just
ideas we're sowing. They are realities.
Thanks to our principals Caterpillar, well known
for earthmoving equipments; Chemiebau, builders
of chemical plants, and Buhler, manufacturers
of plants and equipment for the food industry.

yes we'll admit it

We think a lot about food. But man does not
live by bread alone. That's why we contribute
to other vital industries like cement and steel,
chemicals and pharmaceuticals, paper and pulp,
drilling and mining, irrigation and power...

LARSEN & TOUBRO LIMITED

VOL. VI DECEMBER 1965 No. 9
AGRAHAYANA 1887

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EDITOR : A. P. SHOME

COVER STORY

THE VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FORCE ALL OVER INDIA IS DOING ITS WORK REMARKABLY WELL. THE PICTURE SHOWS THE MEMBERS OF THE V. V. F. OF A VILLAGE IN ASSAM ENGAGED IN BUILDING A ROAD.
(See inside)

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Single Copy : 15 P.
Annual : Rs. 1.25

All enquiries regarding agencies and rates of subscription and advertisements may be addressed to the Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-6. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, *Panchayati Raj*, Ministry of Community Development & Co-operation, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

LETTERS

B.D.O. & ANCHALIK PARISHAD

Sir,

Shri B. B. Jena, Lecturer, Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, in his letter dated May 21, 1965 has raised some points about the new revolutionary changes brought about the administrative set-up through the establishment of Panchayati Raj in the form of the Anchalik Parishad. It is a fact that before the establishment of such Parishads the BDO was the only one officer to supervise and execute the development schemes in consultation with the Block Development Committee. But it is not a fact that after devolution of certain powers to the Anchalik Parishad the BDO has been reduced in position. It is merely a democratisation of the office of BDO and the officer has been made a public servant more in reality and practice than he was before. It is true that the BDO and other Extension officers of the Block constitute the machinery through which the Anchalik Parishad has to execute the development plans and programmes with which it is entrusted. It will, however, be wrong to think that the BDOs are not feeling happy over this change. Barring a few exceptions the BDOs are extremely happy as they have got a chance to serve the community in a democratic way and I feel that any dissatisfaction over any activity of the Chairman of the Parishad is in fact a misunderstanding on the part of the officer and he should always be willingly ready to support the action of the Chairman who represents the people's will. It is something unbecoming to talk of a "perpetual secret war between the BDO and the technical officers on the one side and the popular Chairman on the other". I do not believe if there is any such instance where any officer can have a warring mentality against the Chairman who represents the ultimate masters.

I would like to remind Shri Jena that the relationship between the BDO and the Anchalik Parishad has been specifically mentioned in relevant rules and the Government orders issued on the subject from time to time.

However, the only anomaly apparently experienced is the maintenance of two separate offices and establishments, one for the Anchalik Parishad and the other for the Block. I would like to combine the two in one, specially when the two offices are complimentary and meant to do the same job.

Yours etc.
Sasadhar Chatterjee
Extension Officer, Panchayats

31-10-65
Gangajalghati Block,
Bankura,
West Bengal.

(Conti..ued on page 3)

BARAHATGECHIA

where litigation is unknown

A SMALL village in Tamluk Subdivision of Midnapore district in West Bengal has set up a record by not sending a single suit to any court of law during the last thirty years. All the disputes over land or otherwise have been amicably settled by the villagers themselves with the help of village elders.

The 75-year old village doctor can remember only one case being taken to the court of law from that village and that was some 35 years ago. But even that case, if he remembers well, was withdrawn from the court after it had been mutually settled by the villagers themselves.

The name of the village is Barahatgechia. It was adjudged the best village in Midnapore district during the year 1962-63 in the "Best Village Competition".

Besides this distinction, Barahatgechia has a number of proud records to its credit. There is no case of theft in the village—none at least in the police records since Independence, none of its 500 inhabitants has the habit of drinking, there is no unemployment—as a matter of fact the village provides employment to about hundred persons from neighbouring areas and, above all, there is no male illiteracy in the village.

Barahatgechia could do all this because its people believe in self-help and work for the upliftment of the village with the help and guidance from the Government. The assistance received from the Tamluk Development Block No. 1 and the Government has been properly utilised by the villagers in order to change the very face of the village—its agricultural, social, psychological and industrial life.

Barahatgechia subsists on agriculture and also on cottage industry developed mainly with the help of the Government. The main crops produced are paddy, moong and khesari dals, potato and some other Rabi crops. Banana is produced in the village in good quantity.

Almost every house can boast of a compost pit. Chemical fertilizers are applied to the fields, but the villagers rely more on green manure. Green manure produced in the village is also supplied to the Tamluk Development Block No. 1.

In the village there are about seven kerosene operated pump sets which supply water to the fields from tanks numbering quite a few. The tanks are deep and do not go completely dry even in summer.

Besides paddy, the most important agricultural production of Barahatgechia is Pan (betel leaf). There are about fifty Pan Barojes in the village and the yearly sale proceeds are estimated at Rs. 50,000.

Strictly following the guidance of the Government, the agricultural production is going up every year.

Industry in Barahatgechia comes under two categories—weaving and dyeing. Weaving provides the highest employment with about hundred handlooms. It is a whole family affair. Men work on the looms when they are not engaged in the fields and women and children of the family also extend hands.

Midnapore leads other districts of West Bengal in respect of handlooms, numbering 32,000 and its share in the 19 crore yards of handloom yarn production in West Bengal in 1963-64 was considerable. Major portion of the yearly production of handloom of Barahatgechia (estimated price Rs. 3 lakh) is marketed at Radhamanihat, which is about a couple of miles away.

In the village there are four small factories for dyeing yarns used in making handloom products. The four factories employ about sixty people and produce goods worth about Rs. 5 lakh per year. As in the case of finished products, the dyed yarn is also sold in nearby Radhamanihat. Dyed yarn is also given under *Bani* system to weavers of nearby villages—the weavers receive remuneration and the product becomes the property of the owner of the yarn. Bani system does not operate in Barahatgechia itself as it deprives the weaver of the full benefit of his product. This again is a proof of the fellow-feeling between the owners of dyeing factories and the village weavers.

The people of Barahatgechia are seen busy in cleaning the village

As one enters the village, he is surprised to find kerosene street lights on bamboo poles along the main village road. There are fourteen such poles on the road.

This is the work of the Boys' Municipality, a subsidiary of the Barahatgechia Palli Unnayan Samity, which is behind everything that is praiseworthy in Barahatgechia. A band of young and enthusiastic boys, work under the guidance of its Secretary, Sri Bishnu Paramanik. Popularly known as the 'Club', the Samity, housed in a hut at the entrance to the village, conducts a night school, a library, a charitable dispensary, a drama unit which gives about half a dozen performances in a year, a 'Kirtan party', the Boys' Municipality which, besides providing lights on the main road, has the responsibility of keeping the village clean, and a forum at which discussions are held on all subjects which benefit the villagers. The Samity now also distributes, under modified rationing scheme, rice, wheat, sugar, mustard oil, etc. to seven villages.

All householders are members of the Samity. Subscriptions are raised and regular Musti-Bhiksha is collected to meet expenses.

Besides, there are the Tantubaya Samabaya Samity, a weavers' co-operative which distributes Government loan and yarn and also arranges marketing of products, and the Krishi Rindan Samity, which distributes agri-

The modest office of the Palli Unnayan Samiti at Barahatgechia which is the nerve centre of all the activities in the village

cultural loan and fertilizer obtained from the State Government.

The people of Barahatgechia can justly be proud of their village. These self-reliant villagers have proved beyond doubt that the hurdles on the way to prosperity can be removed easily if there is a strong will and determined action. Barahatgechia is fulfilling the cherished goal of the Community Development programme. It has set a noble example before its counterparts all over the country.

LETTERS

(*Continued from page 1*)

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND YOUTH

Sir,

The present circumstances have posed a big challenge before the youth of the country. They have to come forward to meet this challenge, they have to rise to this occasion. The country wants that they should give their all for its security and self-sufficiency in all respects. Particularly the rural youth have a great role to play in producing more food. The young men and women with their energetic spirit and indomitable courage can lead the poor and ignorant farmers towards the goal of self-sufficiency in food. They must work hard to usher in an India free from illiteracy, hunger and poverty.

Our youth may have technical guidance and instruction from technical personnel and can in their turn guide the rural people in a proper way, teach them all the improved methods to increase production. They can take up the leadership.

It is expected that our youth organisations will take active part in implementing projects like vegetable cultivation, poultry, fishery, etc. during this season and help people to help themselves. They should engage themselves in every activity of the village and work with firm determination, courage and initiative.

We should not forget that success does not come in a day but through long and patient toil and we will have to go on toiling with the hope to reach the goal.

A successful reconstruction of rural India will only be possible if rural youth come forward with right earnest. I am sure that the day is not far off when our youth will take active part in every sphere of development programme and help the country to find an honourable place in the world.

Yours etc.

30-10-65

North Karimganj Dev. Block, Cachar, Assam.

Manir Ahmed
Extension Officer, Soc. Ed.

MATASAHI SETS TO ACTION

Inspiration from Radio

R. C. KAPOOR

FERRYING the silent waters to reach Matasahi, a beautiful village in the district of Puri in Orissa, was really the most exhilarating experience. In the awesome hush of the evening caused by the black clouds and drizzling, a party of twenty, representing every corner of the country, was fast approaching to the host village. Here the villagers had gathered under the welcome arch, singing the hymns and folk songs, welcoming the guests. The hush silence of the water was ornamented by the palm trees. It appeared as if the trees were watchmen guarding alertly the virginity of those waters. Any man aboard at that hour might have thanked God for simply being alive in a world, which for a little while wore the innocent loveliness of Eden.

But lo, the boat carrying these twenty persons, the Chief Organisers of Radio Rural Forums who had gathered in Bhubaneswar for a seminar, was approaching nearer to the other end of the lake, on which stood Matasahi. As the party came closer and closer, the sound of 'Khartal' and singing went louder. At last the boat set across the other end. The leader of the party, an A.I.R. official was profusely garlanded and 'Khartal' and singing reached to its highest pitch. The delegates joined the villagers in singing and dancing, and continued to do so till all reached in the heart of the village. Here, the tempo of singing and dancing steadily slowed down and within a few minutes died completely.

Kelu Routroy, a young cultivator of the village, welcomed the visitors with few nice words. Soon, he led them to the vast expanse of the fields which surrounded the village. The green vegetation all around presented before the eye an inexplicable charm. It looked, as if an Oriya belle, with a delicate smile on her red lips was standing erect to welcome.

Kelu, in his broken bits of Hindi, informed the visitors that before November 1959, most of this green land was lying barren. Whatever admiration they might have for this green vastness today, was all due to the new and expert ideas which have been constantly flowing in the village, since then through the Radio Rural Forum. Every word of information, every bit of instruction received through the Forum, found its way right into the homes, fields and all spheres of common interest. This, in turn, dissipated change in the very face of stagnant rural life, giving rise to new hopes and aspirations and shaping them into realities. Pointing out towards a field of vegetables, Kelu said, "The cultivator raises a bumper crop of vegetables. Much of his inspiration was derived from the radio broadcasts, and with the help of Block staff it was put into reality."

He took the party a little ahead, to the village pond, a nice place with neatly laid stairs and embankment and surrounded by banana trees. His brows straightened with pride, when he said, "We have dug this pond with our own hands. From fishery we get about Rs. 1,200 and the annual sale proceeds of the bananas and other vegetables exceed Rs. 1,500."

When questioned, how that money was being utilised, he replied with pleasant self satisfaction, "We run Mahila Samiti, school and Pathagar with this sum."

"How do you run and manage the project ?"

"We have evolved a novel way. Every house in the village, by turn, looks after the pond and other connected works for a week. No remuneration is given for it. But 50 Paise per day is paid, when labourers are hired on purpose."

The visitors were still applauding the whole scheme, when the scene shifted to a more novel thing. It was a scientifically built beautiful cowshed in this far fetched village. The shed could accommodate about forty cows. Its speciality being that not a drop of cow's urine was wasted and whole of it was utilized as manure scientifically.

The shed belonged to Banchha Nidhi Routroy. He proudly told the visitors that he was motivated by the radio broadcasts, to build and maintain this cowshed in such a fashion.

The advent of night was fast enveloping the surroundings with darkness. The visitors were taken to the Mahila Samiti office. The women after seeing the visitors, welcomed them with a rhythmic tune of "H-o-o-o H-o-o H-o-o". The convener of the "Shrota Mandal" took the visitors inside the office and showed the handicrafts and records, the results of broadcast listening.

And then the visitors were back to the place from where they started, the Pathagar (Community Centre). Here, the members of the Forum were present with other villagers. Sitting in a horse-shoe shape, members listened eagerly to the broadcast from All India Radio, Cuttack, when the radio was tuned in at exactly 7.30 p.m. A talk on "The role of school teacher in village development" was being relayed. When it concluded, discussion followed among all the twenty members. Indeed, it was an enriching deliberation. It continued even amidst heavy rain. Some decisions were taken on the spot. The summary of the deliberations was translated by the Block Development Officer for the sake of the visitors.

In the cross-questioning, which followed the forum and during the 'Priti Bhoj', the members voiced confidently that the forum was instrumental in removing the inactivity with which the village suffered for ages, thus leading the people to light. Besides building the cowshed and fishery project, the forum had awakened the villagers against health hazards. Now they were very much particular in getting themselves vaccinated and inoculated against contagious diseases.

In torrent rains, wet from top to bottom, visitors started back ferrying the river. They reached Pantha Niwas (Tourist Bungalow) in Bhubaneshwar at midnight, carrying with them the impregnable impressions of Routroys and their village Matasahi—a village fired with enthusiasm and firm determination to move ahead, at all odds, with rapid pace.

(Courtesy : Dilli Mirror)

AT LAST CONVINCED

RANJIT KUMAR RAHA

SHRI Khadim Mayambar Ali bowed to the Minister for Agriculture, who came to visit Barkhala, and received a cheque for Rs. 200. Then he turned to me and waiving the cheque said, "But for your kind help I would never have got this. Once again, I offer my grateful thanks."

"Not at all", I said, "you have been awarded for your hard labour and success in agriculture. But tell me, are you convinced now that the Package programme has come as a boon to this district."

He grinned in reply. And that was sufficient to indicate that Ali will no more turn back. He has left the traditional methods of cultivation once for all.

Behind the above incident lies a long tale of persuasion. When the Package programme was launched in Cachar district of Assam it was very difficult to convince the farmers that the programme aimed at changing their economic lot by increasing the agricultural production through scientific methods. The farmers came with doubts even resistance. Why should they give up the methods followed by their fathers and grandfathers? They wanted to know.

Ali was one of them. "Our old men never used chemical fertilizers or pesticides", he argued, "did they ever starve for that?"

"Moreover who knows these chemical fertilizers will not ruin the fertility of the soil in the long run."

"Listen please", I tried to explain. "Your forefathers did not apply chemical fertilizers even then they harvested enough crop to sustain their families, I admit. But the standard of life changes with rise in income. Don't you want to earn more? Don't you want better living conditions? Don't you want better education for your children? The most important of all, don't you want to serve the country by freeing it from the dependence on other countries for food?"

"Yes, I do want all these," he said emphatically.

"Then, believe me, Ali, the adoption of the scientific methods is the only way. And that is why the Package programme has been launched. You will have to use improved seeds, apply chemical fertilizers, spray pesticides to protect crops to have more production from the same field. You will have to grow two crops where you have grown one crop for all these years."

"But don't you think that the improved methods entail too heavy an expense for us to bear?" asked Ali.

"The return will be much more than you invest," I assured him. "Moreover, we are here to help you in all respects."

Shri K.M. Ali now follows scientific methods to protect his crops

"Well then I will adopt your improved methods", he said at last. "But mind you, only on one bigha of my land. Just as an experiment."

When Ali procured improved seeds from the Gram Sevak, some of the village people laughed at him. That was not all. When he began nursery spray in his seed bed, many people rebuked him. But the villagers fell out when he applied chemical fertilizers and compost to the one-bigha plot. This naturally caused depression in Ali and he sought our guidance and help. He was about to give up scientific methods in despair. All attempts were made to cheer him up, to make him go forward with new enthusiasm.

The growth of the seedlings in the seed bed gave him some courage and hope. Then the utility of line transplantation was explained to him.

Still with doubt and apprehension he applied chemical fertilizers. A successful function of line-transplantation had been performed in his land by all of us.

After a few days I saw a number of farmers approaching our office led by Ali. Something must have gone wrong, I feared. Perhaps the growth of the crop was not satisfactory.

Ali addressed me with a beaming smile. "I have brought my friends so that they can hear from you what they should do to increase their production. They have all been impressed at the charming growth of paddy on my plot. Of course they criticised me at the beginning for taking your advice. But they all feel sorry now. They are prepared to do whatever you would ask them. But I have advised them to wait till I harvest the crop."

"You have still doubts on the success of the Package Programme", I said amidst laughter.

"Oh yes. One is convinced only when he sees the result."

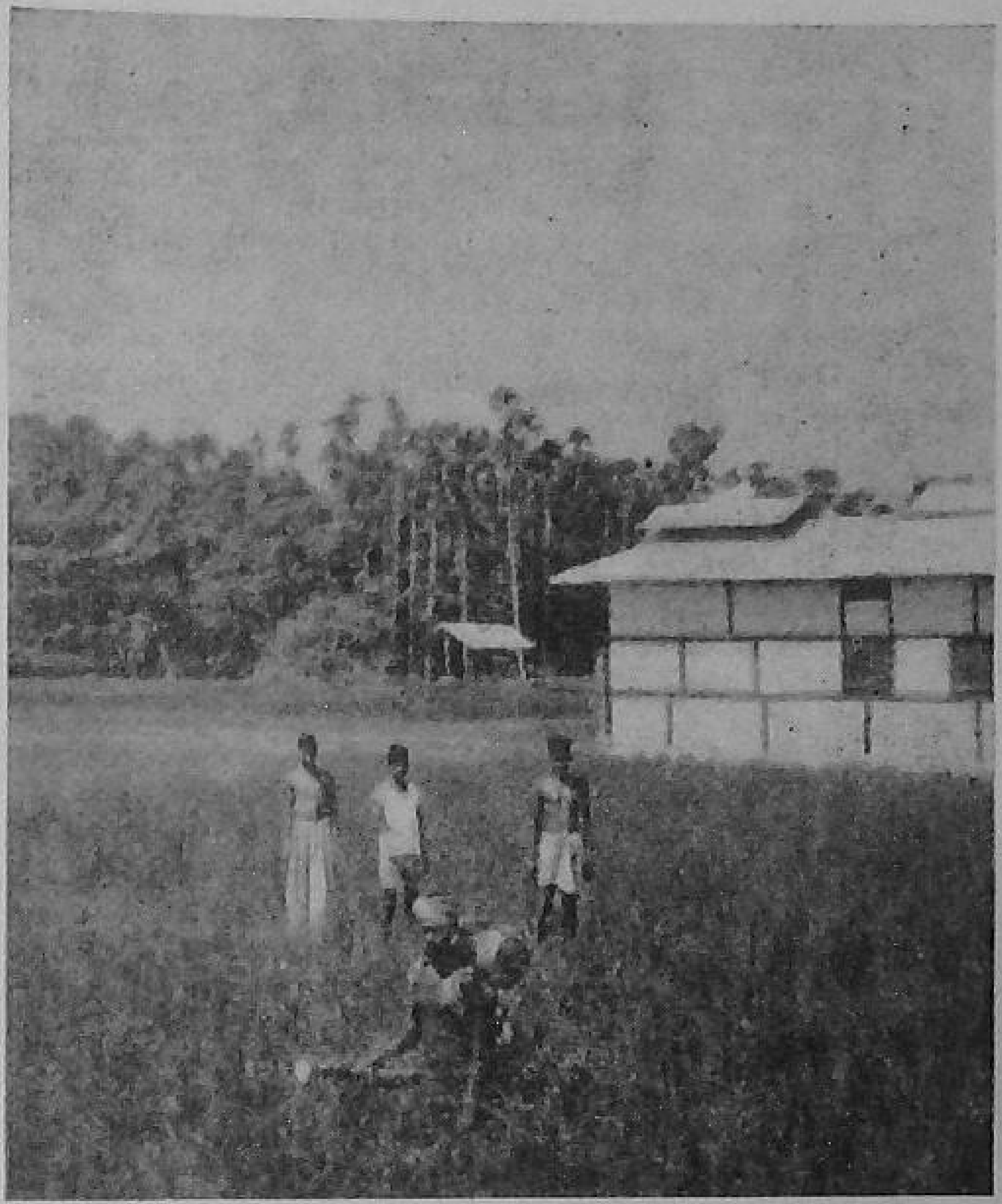
"Right you are", I said.

The danger came from an unexpected corner. The one-bigha plot was suddenly attacked by pests. We fought them out. Pesticides were liberally used. Despite this attack the harvest yielded, to the greatest surprise of Ali, 32 mds. Thirty-two maunds of paddy per bigha, that is 102 mds. per acre. And Ali was selected in the district for a reward of Rs. 200 for producing highest amount of paddy in one bigha of land.

Any ideology which comes in the way of food production is bad ideology, obviously. The whole purpose of any ideology is that it should yield results. This is not some metaphysical question like attaining nirvana which cannot be tested. Here the test is more food production. And that is the real test.—**Jawaharlal Nehru**

STORY OF A YOUNG FARMER

CHINMOY NAG



Shri Nagendra Nath is seen spraying pesticides to his crop

ONE CANNOT overlook the dark green crops swaying in the breeze in a five-bigha compact plot by the side of the P.W.D. thoroughfare on his way to Natunbazar in Assam. One is simply bewildered at the conspicuous growth of the Aus crops at this time. If one cares to know by whom this miracle has been done he will be led to a young farmer. His name is Shri Nagendra Nath. Shri Nagendra Nath, who has barely crossed his teens, at first may feel shy. But slowly he will certainly reveal the secret of his success.

Shri Nath comes of a poor agriculturist family of Rajveswarpur. Even at his childhood he could realise that their poverty was due to the poor yield of the land. He knew that due to the old practices followed by his father the output could not be increased. That is why Nagendra Nath had Agriculture as his special subject in school. He got through the final examination from Lala H.S. & M.P. School this year. The influence of his teacher at school combined with the impact of the Package Programme in Lala Block made him apply package of practices in his field. In the year 1959, he transplanted his paddy seedlings in line for one bigha and became convinced of its benefit. But in spite of his innate desire, he could not spread out his activities as his father, being a very conservative farmer did not like the idea.

In 1964, the local Gram Sevak conducted a composite Aus demonstration on his land which yielded 12 mds. per bigha as against the average production of 3 mds. in the locality. His father was surprised at the result. Now he was convinced that such miracles could be done only through the scientific methods. Shri Nagendra got a blank cheque in his favour and became happy beyond measure. He purchased five more bighas last winter and got his land harrowed by the tractor arranged in collaboration with the Block authorities and applied full package of practices in his holding of 15 bighas.

Even though he is tender in age, he has earned proficiency in scientific agriculture. He is an example by himself and a source of inspiration to his colleagues. The country now wants young enthusiastic progressive farmers like Shri Nagendra Nath who will lead us to the goal of self-sufficiency in food.

I do not see any inherent difficulty in making our common farmer, the small farmer, understand scientific agriculture. The Indian farmer, if properly approached is a remarkably good person He is conservative certainly, but not so much as not to change if properly approached. As a human being, he is as good a farmer as anywhere.—**Jawaharlal Nehru**

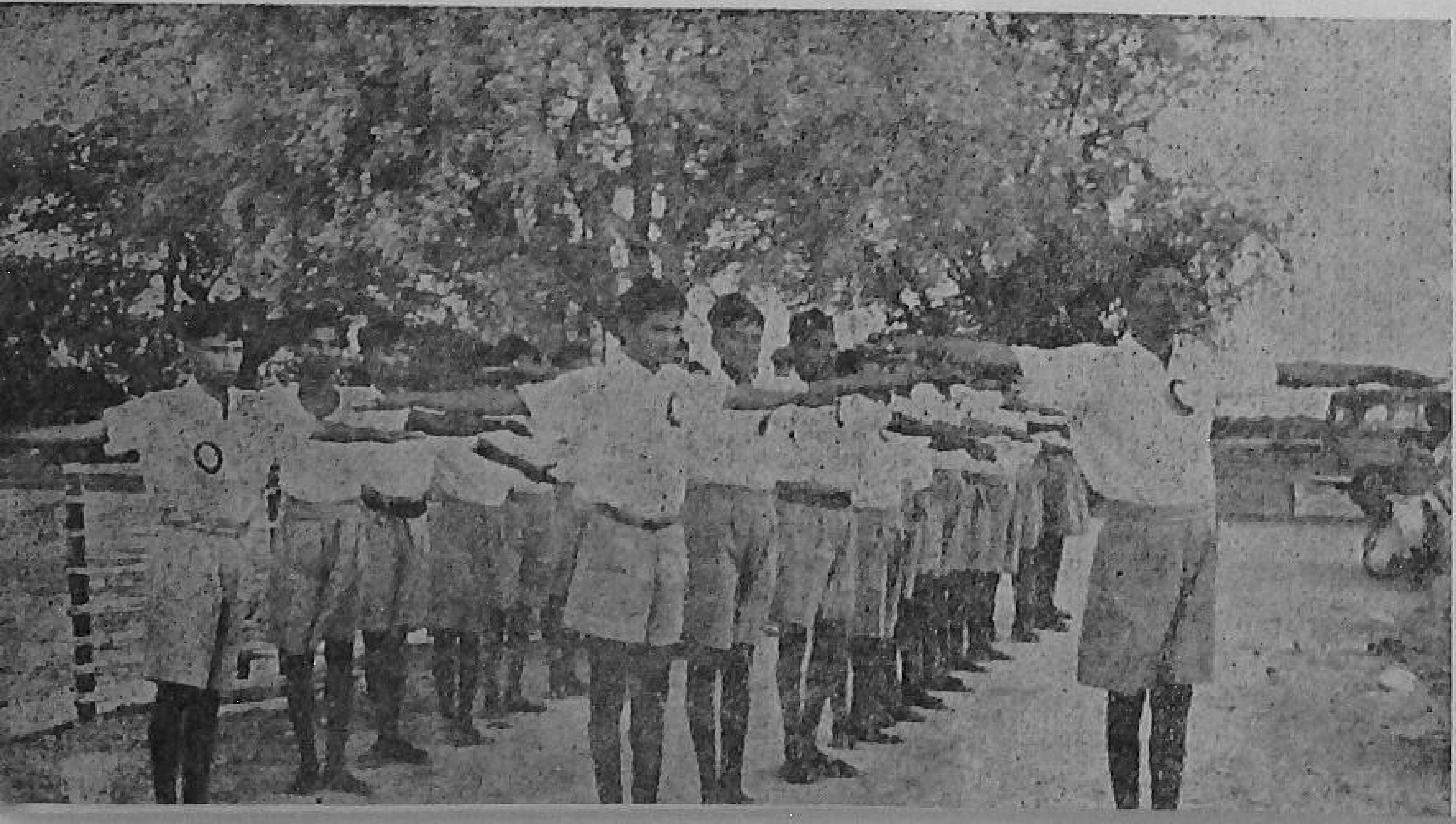
FROM KASHMIR TO KANYAKUMARI

v. v. f. on the

1

THE VILLAGE Volunteer Force has been mobilised all over the country for the execution of a three-fold programme—production, mass education and village defence. The recent Pakistani aggression has created a new spurt in the activities of the V.V.F. They are determined to provide a strong agricultural base which is the first requisite of national defence. They do realise that their job is important as that of our Jawans at the battle-front.

The accompanying pictures show how the members of the V.V.F. have risen to meet the present challenge.



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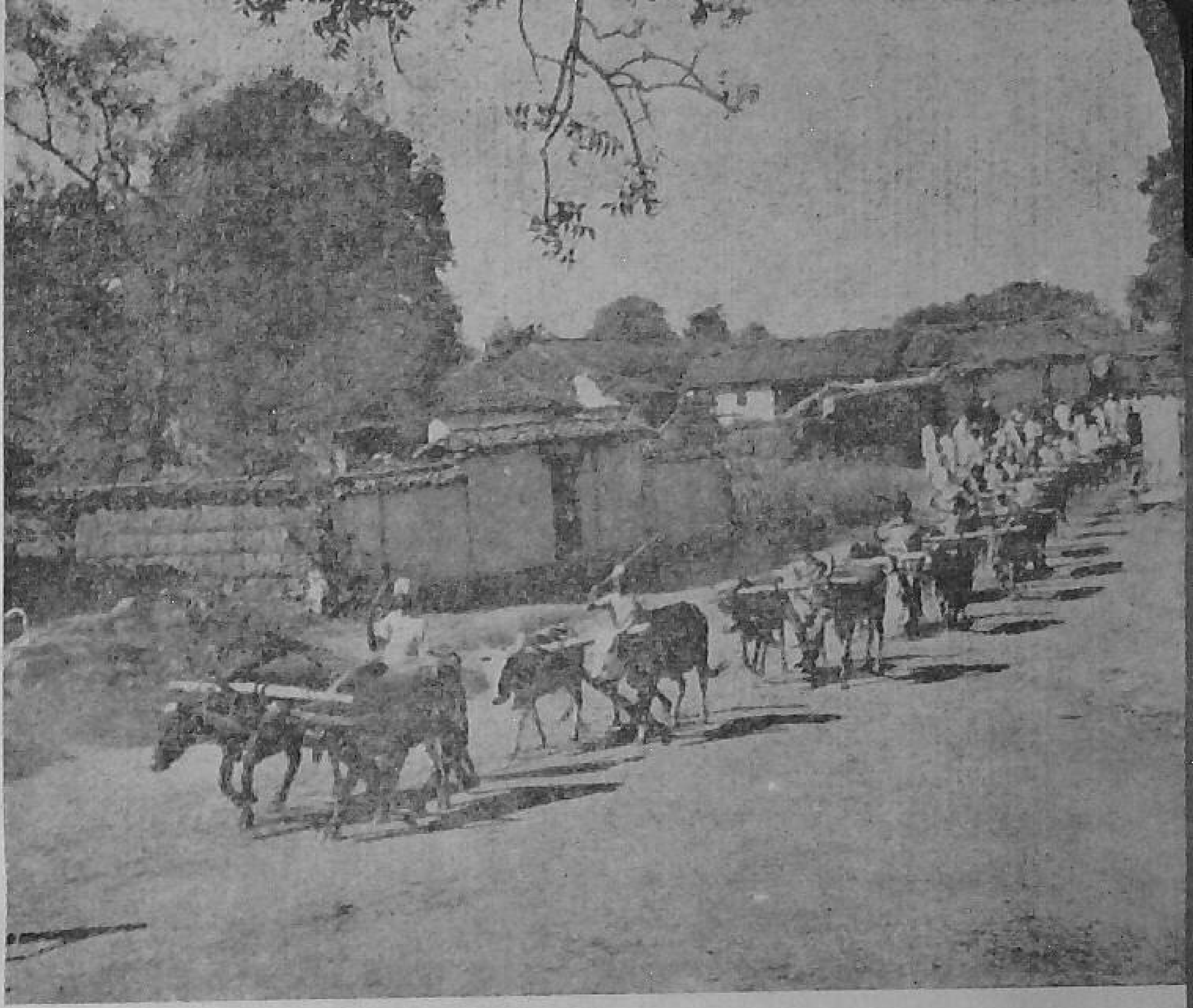
march



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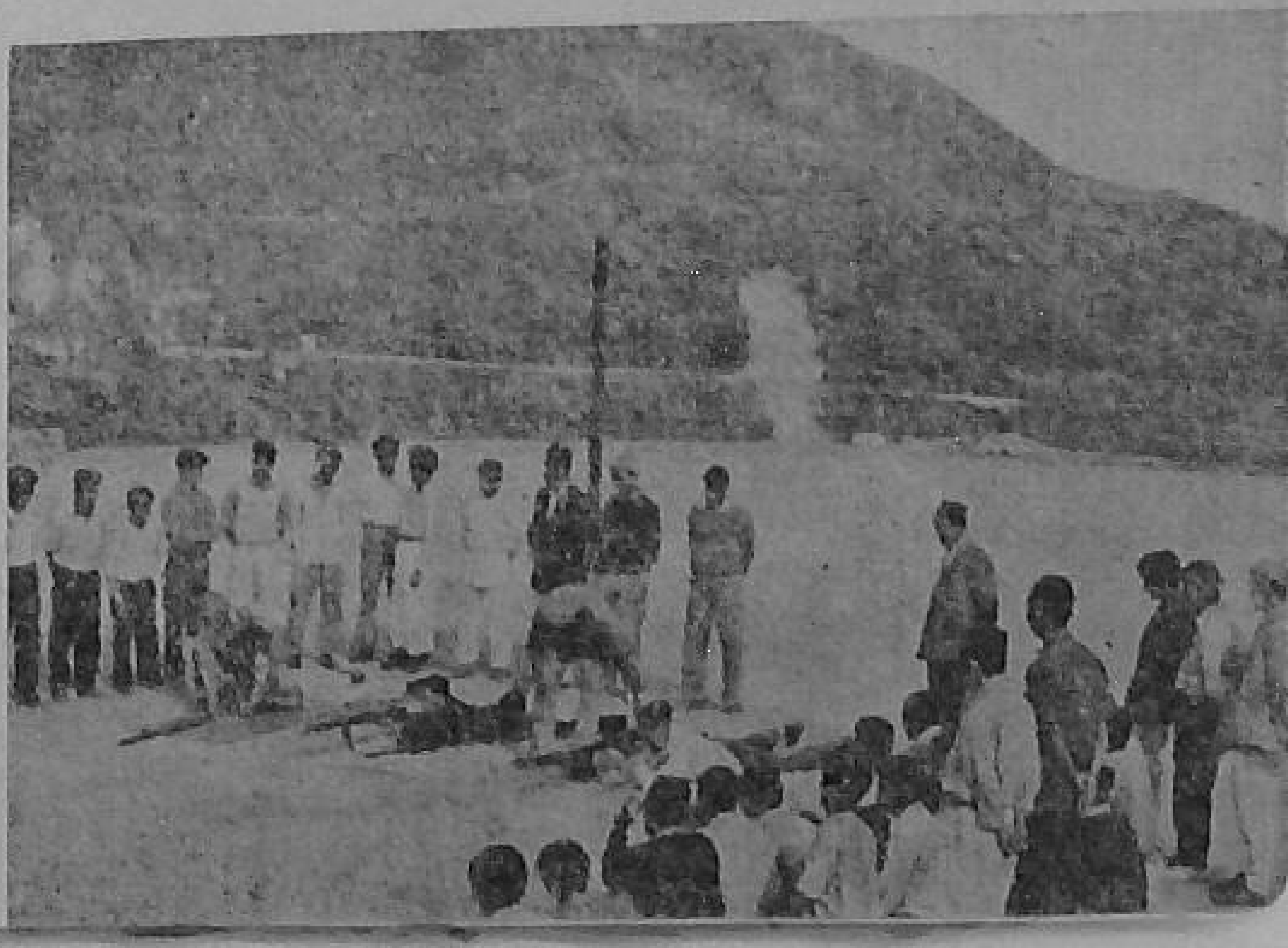
3

PICTURE GUIDE

1. *Taking the oath*
2. *Volunteers doing mass drill at a village in Madras*
3. *The members of the V.V.F. are busy in constructing an approach road in a Block in Himachal Pradesh*
4. *Volunteers proceeding to the fields at Bourenpet in Hyderabad district of Andhra Pradesh*
5. *Members of V.V.F. are seen engaged in making a bait fish tank at Minicoy Island. Live bait fish is e-quired to catch 'Tuna' fish, an earner of foreign ex-change for India.*
6. *Dalpatis of V.V.F. are seen receiving training in rifle shooting at Kurseong in West Bengal*

5

6



PROGRESS OF PANCHAYATS

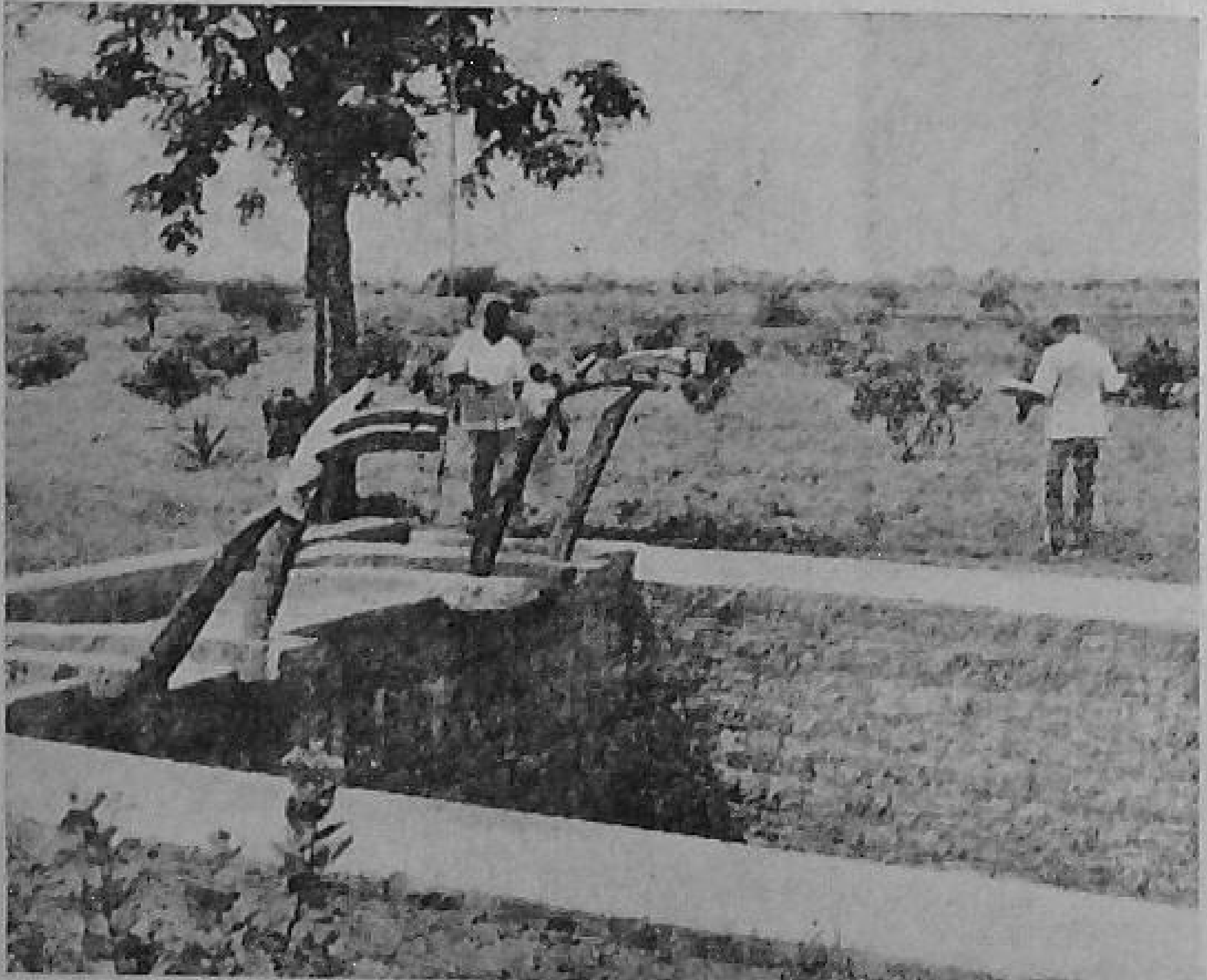
Tirunelveli's Achievement

"INDIAN Independence must begin at the bottom", said Gandhiji. "Every village should be a Republic or Panchayat having full powers. The greater the powers of Panchayat the better for the people". It has been fully realised in India that with the opening wide of the door of democracy in the countryside a full and rich life would be assured through the work of the millions marching forward to establish the new socialist regime.

Madras has made a remarkable progress towards democratic decentralisation. The State has been fully covered in the establishment of Panchayats. In all, there are 374 Panchayat Unions covering 12,000 Panchayats in the State.

Special emphasis is being laid on the development of scientific method of agriculture, family planning, children's education and women and youth movements through Panchayati Raj institutions.

Today the Panchayat Unions in every district in this State has become the centre and the source of inspiration to the people of that area. Like the Panchayat Unions of the other districts the Panchayat Unions of the Tirunelveli have readily accepted the increasing responsibilities that were devolved upon them as a challenge and are marching ahead. The development activities of the Panchayats are manning Panchayat plantations, compost-making, construction of school buildings, organisation of Madhar Sangams, radio rural forums, and organising the Village Volunteer Force.



A community well built by the people of Rajaputhukkudi

There are also other important activities which deserve special mention. "Idle-Man-Power Utilisation Scheme" forms an important part of the Rural Development programme. The famine relief works, executed in Tirunelveli district is commendable. In Blocks, which are generally dry, repairs to tank-bunds, digging of community wells for irrigation, formation of link roads to hamlets and construction of Harijan quarters, have been taken up and are in various stages of progress. Most of the tanks in Kayathar, Ottapidaram Nanguneri, Vallivoor, Radhapuram and a few parts of Kalakad and Alwarthirunagari Blocks are being renovated.

COMMUNITY WELLS

The community wells are being dug for irrigation purposes in Kayathar and Ottapidaram Blocks. This new item, included under the Idle-man-power Utilisation schemes, provides ample scope for increasing irrigation facilities in arid tracts. Small pattadars having one or two acres each cannot spend a huge amount of about Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,000 for digging irrigation wells. Under this new scheme, an opportunity is being provided for a group of about 10 to 15 small pattadars, who can join together and dig a common well, for irrigation purposes. Such a well being taken for putting up a pump-set, for drawing water from these wells. The question of collecting a reasonable sum as betterment fee for the maintenance of the pump-sets is also under consideration. This new scheme is welcomed wholeheartedly by a number of ryots.

RURAL INDUSTRIES

A Pilot Project for the development of rural industries has been sanctioned in Nanguneri taluk of this district by the State Government. A comprehensive survey has been made with a view to assessing the available natural resources of these areas and a number of rural industries have been taken up for development.

Palmirah trees are the most important raw materials for rural industries in Nanguneri taluk. A number of schemes are under execution, utilising these raw materials for developing remunerative rural industries. According to the statistics furnished by the Project

Officer of the Nanguneri Rural Project, there are about one crore of palmirah trees in Nanguneri Project area which is one-fourth of the total number of palmirah trees in Madras State, and 50 per cent of those in Tirunelveli district.

Training centres for the manufacture of palm-leaf products are functioning very successfully at K-Puddur and Vijayapathy in Radhapuram Block and Chettikulam in Vallivoor Block. Shri S. Sounthara Pandian, M.L.A., the Chairman of Vallivoor Panchayat Union, serves as the President of the Project Level Advisory Committee of Nanguneri and a large number of rural industries are coming up all over the area. There is a very good demand for palm-leaf products, produced in these training centres. The Instructors of these training centres, mostly hail from Manappadu (near Tiruchendur) and Melpuram (in Kanyakumari district) which have earned a name for their quality work. It is learnt that the finished products of the centres were very popular and found a good sale at the festival, recently held at Nanguneri.

The training centre for the manufacture of brushes using palmirah fibre, is functioning at Thisaiyanvilai in Radhapuram Block. Twenty trainees are being trained in this centre and the duration of training is six months. This new industry has a very good future, as there is great demand for these brushes in the international market. It is expected, that the industry will become very popular in the near future and the finished products may earn a lot of foreign exchange, if this new industry is developed on proper lines.

The blacksmithy and carpentry units are functioning in a number of Blocks. New types of useful materials for the villagers, such as, spades, ploughs, iron rims for carts and other agricultural improved implements are being manufactured in these units. Alangulam Block deserves special credit in this field, as it has created a new record in the manufacture of special types of articles. Attractive furniture and play materials for children are manufactured in the Blacksmithy unit at Alangulam. The finished products are very fine and the quality is good. The prices are cheaper than the market rates. These articles are therefore becoming very popular. The initiative and zeal evinced in this matter, can be jointly shared by the Extension Officer (Industries), Block Development Officer and a skilled worker by name Sri Sundara Nadar.

The training centre for the manufacture of banana fibre and starch utilising banana stems, is functioning at Karunyapuram, with the assistance of Khadi Commission and the Madras State Khadi and Village Industries Board. Ambar Charkha programme is being implemented in a number of villages in the entire Nanguneri taluk and most of them are functioning very successfully at Panakkudi village, where the "Tamil Nad Sarvodaya Sangh" is running a number of rural industries such as Khadi weaving, soap-making, brick kiln, etc. High-draft Ambar Charkha Unit, is functioning on experimental basis at Kalligulam (in Radhapuram Block), which is the first of its kind in the district. A training centre for the manufacture of chalk-pieces is run successfully by the Women's Welfare Department at Sanganankulam. Trainees of this unit are women of denotified tribes. All these industries provide employment to a large number of village artisans, especially women.

A view of the training centre for the manufacture of palm-leaf products at Chattikulam in Valliyur Block in Tirunelveli district

RADIO RURAL FORUMS

Radio Rural Forums are functioning effectively in all the Blocks, as agencies, for the exchange of views among the farmers. Authentic information about the activities of the various departments and other matters of importance are made available to the rural folk, within a week, in the questions and answers programme of the Radio Rural Forums.

Algappapuram Panchayat in Alwarthirunagari Panchayat Union has a Radio Rural Forum, which has sent about 170 questions to the All-India Radio and 80 per cent of them were answered. In two other Panchayats, namely, Nallur and Sivalarkulam in Alangulam Block, Radio Rural Forums have assisted in increasing the production of compost-manure and other welfare activities in these villages.

Radio Mandram, a monthly bulletin in Tamil, is being published for announcing the rural programmes of the All India Radio in advance and copies of the bulletin are being sent to all Blocks. It may be recalled that the Radio Rural Forum programme was inaugurated by Sri Kamaraj, the then Chief Minister, at the time of the First Conference of the Panchayat Union Chairmen of Madras State, held at Tiruchirapalli on the 15th July 1962.

Madhar Sangam (women's clubs) in all Blocks are engaged in conducting classes on tailoring, embroidery, etc. A few members are evincing keen interest in the distribution of hundies for Small Savings. Generally brass vessels for their families are being purchased from the hundi savings. Special mention must be made of the Madhar Sangam (in which most of the members are Harijans) at Bommaiyapuram in Kayathar Block and Tharuvaikulam in Ottapidaram Block which are very enthusiastic in the Small Savings Drive. Hundies are distributed among women and the Small Savings Campaign is being intensified by the Block officials.

Thus, with confidence Tirunelveli is marching forward. It has proved that with sincere and inspired leadership it is always possible to rouse the people from their age-long slumber. Once they are awakened there is nothing on earth that can stop them.

HIVARKHED—A MODEL VILLAGE

R. K. PATIL

AT THE FOOT of the Satpuras in Maharashtra, you will come across a small village which may not seem to be impressive at all. But if you have time to know something about this village which is situated in Telhara Development Block of Akot Taluka in Akola district you will find that Hivarkhed—that is the name of the village—is one of the model villages—"tiny Edens" in the words of Gandhiji—in the country. Yes, that is what Hivarkhed is. Only last year it was declared the best village of Maharashtra.

Hivarkhed has a population of 8,767. And the people have taken an honest oath to change the face of the village. Their only means for this is self-help. Most of the development works in the village are done through shramdan in which men and women, young and old take part without any hesitation. They have dug 350 compost pits, made 175 bunds, built 1,287 ft. long approach road to Karla and 1,165 ft. long approach road to Talegaon. All these works in terms of cash would have cost them Rs. 16,000.

Hivarkhed's prosperity is due to the intensive cultivation done by its people. The total cultivable land runs into 5,647 acres. Hivarkhed mainly produces plantations, grapes, betel leaves, chillies, vegetables, cotton and groundnut. The farmers have rightly realised that production can be increased only through improved techniques, seeds and implements. They use chemical fertilizers liberally. For irrigating their fields, the farmers of this village have purchased 48 pumps out of which 43 are electrically operated and five by diesel.

The Panchayat under the inspired leadership of its Sarpanch, Shri Sahdeva Narain Rao Bhople is doing a remarkable job. The Panchayat which came into being in 1950 has fifteen members out of whom two are women. The Panchayat has a unique record of collecting cent per cent land revenue. It has made adequate arrangement for drinking water. There are 24 public wells in the village. The Panchayat is now considering a plan for supplying tap water. Electricity came to the village in 1962.

Thanks to the Panchayat a thirteen-mile long pucca road has been built to connect Hivarkhed with Akot. The village has a clean look with pucca drains. The Panchayat has implemented a novel plan for keeping the village clean and maintaining improved sanitation. The owners of houses located near the pucca drain are required to bear half of the cost of the drain's construction, while the remaining half is borne by the Panchayat. The village unlike many villages in the country has 400 latrines. The scavengers do not carry night soil on their heads, barrows are provided for this purpose. Very soon Ratnagiri type latrines will be introduced in the village. Due to all these sanitary facilities Hivarkhed recently escaped the epidemic of cholera when the whole of Akola was down with it.

The Panchayat pays great attention to education. The village has one primary school, an Urdu school, a girls' school and a Middle school. The Panchayat was adjudged the best in respect of shramdan, administration and small savings in Block-level competitions.

The village has raised a Village Volunteer Force consisting of about hundred members which takes active part in all development works. Besides, there are Bhajan Mandal, Balwadi, Mahila Mandal and Kreeda Mandal which provide recreation to the inhabitants of the village. There is also a Radio Rural Forum.

Hivarkhed offers modern amenities to its people. Situated against a scenic background this village is an ideal place to live in. It shows today what the rural India of tomorrow will look like.

BAYANA PANCHAYAT SAMITI

earner of foreign exchange

SHAKTI TRIVEDI

THE FAME OF Bayana Panchayat Samiti in Rajasthan has already crossed the border of the State and reached all corners of the country. This Samiti is one of the very few Panchayat Samitis which are helping the country to earn valuable foreign exchange.

Recently I had a chance to meet the Pradhan of Bayana Panchayat Samiti, Shri Gopal Ram, who is also a legal practitioner. Shri Gopal Ram feels, quite naturally, proud of the achievements of his Panchayat Samiti.

"You know our Samiti earns valuable foreign exchange for the country", he said when I asked him about Bayana.

"How ?"

"By exporting *pan* (betel leaf) to Ceylon and Pakistan".

"Ah, I remember", I said. "Once I was travelling by Frontier Mail to Bombay. At Bayana Junction I heard the vendor shouting 'Bayana Ka desi pan khaiyega' (please taste betel leaves of Bayana)".

"Three of our Panchayats, Khareri, Bagren and Khan-kheda, cultivate betel vines", the Pradhan said and added with a smile, "please don't conclude that we live on *pan* only".

"What other millets do you grow ?" I asked.

"In Rabi season our farmers grow wheat, mustard, gram, barley, groundnut, sugarcane, etc. Bajra is the main Kharif crop which is cultivated on a wide scale. As our farmers are generally better off the small savings campaign has gained tremendous success within the jurisdiction of our Samiti. Our Samiti stood first in the State-level competition for small savings last year. The amount deposited was about Rs. 6 lakhs. Thrice we won at the district-level competition".

"You must have done a lot to help the farmers", I remarked.

"Oh yes. You see our main duty is to render all help to the farmers. We must awaken them and help them to move forward if we want to have a better India."

"Of course", I said, "kindly tell me what precisely your Samiti has done to improve cultivation."

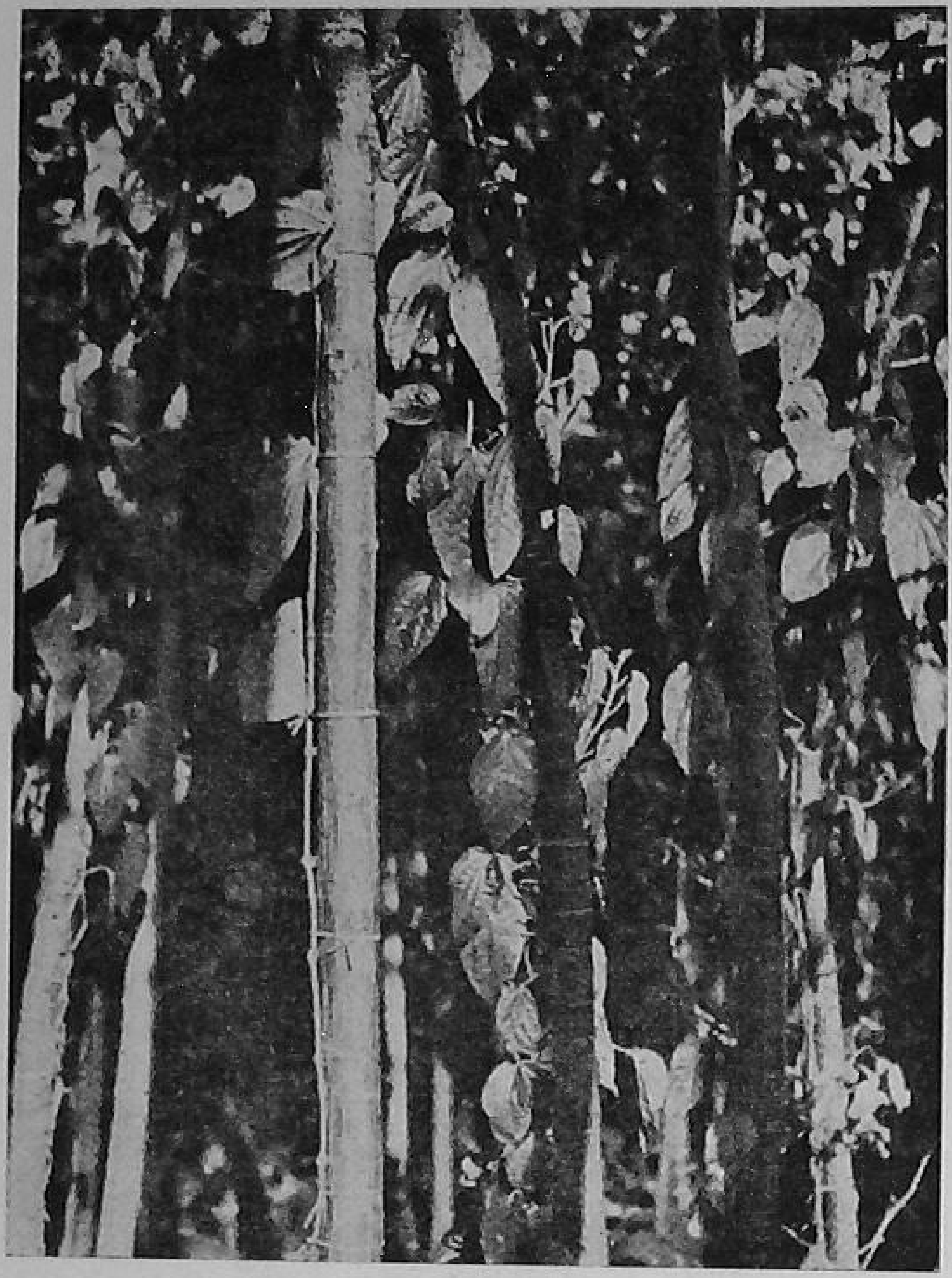
"We have made a remarkable progress in minor irrigation. We have got one big dam—Bund Baretha —and twenty other small barrages. There are still some under construction. We have started intensive irrigation during the Third Plan period. And we hope to double the area of irrigated cultivable land before the Fourth Plan period commences. Our target is to instal hundred pump sets out of which 35 have already been fixed. Moreover we want to have 300 wells, out of which 130 have already been dug. I take pride in pointing out that we did all these without taking any assistance from the State Government."

"This also proves that our rural people only need correct leadership," I remarked.

The Pradhan blushed. "No compliments to me, please. The credit goes entirely to our people. I am just their humble servant. Yes, about our Samiti. You would be glad to know that rural electrification has made much headway in our Panchayat Samiti. Kanawar Panchayat of our Samiti stood first in this respect. Five villages under this Panchayat have been completely electrified. Moreover the Panchayat has twelve electric pumps for irrigation."

"What about roads ? You know most of our villages are not easily approachable due to lack of good roads," I said.

"We are still struggling to have good roads. At present about one-third of the total area is well knit with roads. Most of the area is mountainous and full of streams which cause heavy damage to roads during the monsoon every year. We are now engaged in constructing a 35-mile approach road from Bayana to Karauli. When completed the road will shorten the distance to Bayana by eight miles. You see, Bayana is situated at the border of two districts—Bharatpur and Swai Madhopur. To start with a four-mile long road has been constructed from Ghunainy (Bharatpur district) to Navalpura (Swai Madhopur district)."



Betel vine cultivation at Bayana

"How you reacted to the recent Pakistani aggression ?" I asked to change the topic.

"As in other parts of the country the people of Bayana have also risen to the occasion. With grim determination they are preparing themselves to do their utmost to serve the country. We have raised a Gram Sevadal for civil defence as well as village development work. Our men have earned distinction in so many spheres. Our Gram Sevak was adjudged the best in the State-level. In the district-level crop competition Shri Harkanni of Encholi, within the jurisdiction of our Samiti, bagged the first prize by producing the highest yield of wheat."

"How I feel tempted to see Bayana", I said.

"You are most welcome", replied Shri Gopal Ram. "You would be surprised to find how Bayana has come out of the dark life it led under the feudal rule before Independence and is now proudly marching towards prosperity. Moreover as a tourist you will find Bayana quite attracting. There is an ancient fort of the Yadavas nearby. There is a temple of Aniruddha, grandson of Krishna. If you are a big game hunter Baretha will offer you a chance to bag a tiger."

"Oh no, I am just a pen pusher", I said, "hunting is not in my line. But I would certainly pay a visit to Bayana to pay my respects to its people."

The age of "Dying for the Motherland" is over. Instead, the age is on in which one has to "Live for the Motherland" so that she can grow fuller and richer. The Community Projects Programme does mean fuller life as much for the individual as for the community as a whole.—**S. K. Dey**

They Also Serve

BISCUITS DONATED

Twenty-six women's associations in the Sholavaram Panchayat Union near Madras City have donated 101 tins of biscuits and three transistor radios for distribution to Jawans on the front. The staff and teachers of the Panchayat Union have decided to donate a day's salary to the Defence Fund.

* * * *

SMALL SUM, BIG HEART

The Mirya Gram Vikas Mandal, Bombay, has donated Rs. 51, saved by cancelling its programme of Dassera sammelan of this year. The amount was handed over to Shri P. K. Savant, Minister for Agriculture and Civil Supplies on September 30.

* * * *

TO THE FORE

All members of the Dhulia Zila Parishad (Maharashtra) have decided to contribute their one day's allowance, the staff of the Parishad their day's wages and the office-bearers 10 per cent of their salary towards the National Defence Fund.

* * * *

COOPERATIVE BANK CONTRIBUTES

The Yeotmal district Central Cooperative Bank (Maharashtra) has decided to contribute Rs. 50,000 towards the National Defence Fund and Rs. 1,50,000 towards the welfare of the families of the Jawans, who are residents of the Yeotmal district. A resolution to this effect was unanimously passed at the general body meeting of the Bank held under the chairmanship of Shri Babasaheb Gharfalkar.

* * * *

ENTIRE DIVIDEND CONTRIBUTED

The Yeotmal Cooperative Ginning Factory and the Yeotmal Shetki Kharodi Vikri Sangh have contributed their entire sum of dividend of Rs. 20,200 towards the National Defence Fund. The decision was unanimously taken at the joint general meeting of both the societies. Shri Fulchandji Agarwal moved the resolution at the meeting, which was presided by Shri Baburao Yerawa.

The Gujarathi Yuvak Mandal and the Gujarathi Mahila Mandal contributed Rs. 9,200 and Rs. 500, respectively towards the National Defence Fund. The amount was handed over to the Collector of Yeotmal, at a function.

* * * *

DIVIDENDS CONTRIBUTED

The general body meeting of the Amravati District Central Cooperative Bank Limited at its meeting held at Amravati in Maharashtra on September 30, decided to donate a sum of Rs. 2,14,444 earmarked for dividend, to the National Defence Fund and welfare of the families of Jawans from Amravati.

The staff of the Bank have decided to contribute a day's salary and five per cent of the bonus granted to them to the National Defence Fund. The amount contributed by the staff would be around Rs. 13,000.

* * * *

RS. 51,000 TO N. D. F.

Thana District Central Cooperative Bank (Maharashtra) in its general meeting held on September 29, donated Rs. 51,000 towards the National Defence Fund.

* * * *

STORY OF A SCHOOLBOY

Even a saving of five Paise a day can go a long way in strengthening the nation's defence efforts when it carries a touch of one's deep attachment for his motherland.

It is about Chinmoy Das, a school-going boy of Cuttack. In his anxiety to do his own bit to help the country's defence efforts Chinmoy had been sacrificing his daily tiffin to save five Paise every day. As soon as his saving totalled Rs. 3 and 5 Paise, he could not wait any longer and sent the amount to the Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Nilamoni Routroy, who gratefully accepted it as a valuable contribution for the Defence Fund.

It certainly took days and months for him to make it up, but Chinmoy has shown a spirit of patriotism that carries far too deeper a significance than can be measured in terms of money.

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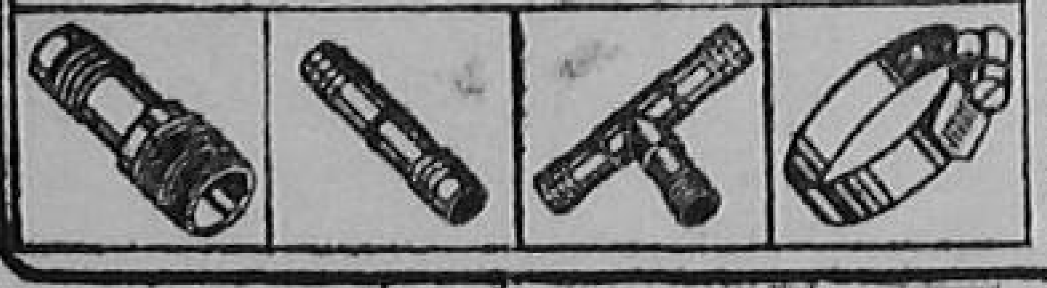

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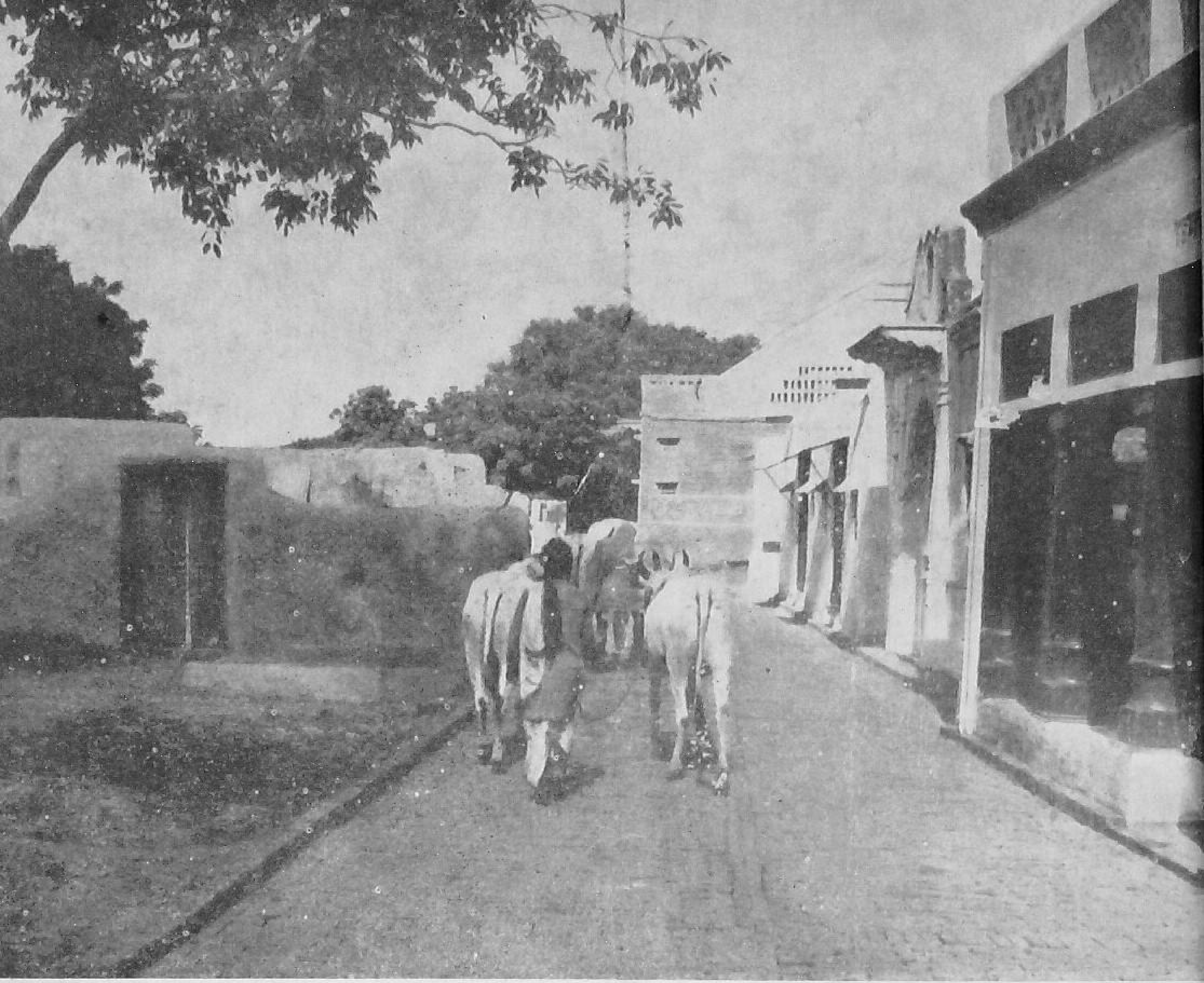
TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW

Health is wealth. The rural people of India had been deprived of this wealth before Independence. Sanitation was an unknown word to them. All sorts of diseases were their constant companions. Epidemics ravaged the villages with regular consistency. The rate of child mortality was awe inspiring.

But things are fast changing since Independence. The rural people are gradually becoming conscious to the need of sanitary living. Today drinking water wells are being dug all over the countryside, roads are being kept clean, number of sanitary latrines is constantly on the rise. Primary health centres are being established as an essential part of the Community Development programme. Moreover, doctors and medical research students are visiting the villages to provide medical facilities.

The picture shows a doctor of a primary health centre attending on a child patient.



Under the impact of the Community Development programme the face of rural India is undergoing a rapid change. The picture shows how village Khajurla in Phagwara Block in Punjab has changed.

Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Faridabad, and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Delhi-6, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation.

Regd. No. D—877.